

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh* the 19th Day of *May*, 1757.

Collected and extracted from the Record by the Clerk thereof.



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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 19th Day of *May* 1757,
and concluded the 30th Day of the said Month of *May*.

I.

The King's Commission to *Charles*
Lord *Cathcart*, produced and or-
dered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 19th, 1757, Seff. 1st.



THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable *Charles* Lord *Cathcart*, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted to his Lordship the last Year, and the Year 1755; which Commission was publicly read with all due Honour and Respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly.

The

II.

The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

Edinburgh, May 19th, 1757, Sess. 1.

Supra scribitur. GEORGE R.



RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The many convincing Proofs you have given Us in former Assemblies, of your steady Loyalty and Affection to Our Person and Government, and of your Zeal for the Advancement of true Religion and Piety, make Us most willingly countenance your present Meeting, as We accordingly do, with Our Royal Authority and Approbation; and renew to you, upon this Occasion, the Assurances of Our constant Resolution to support and maintain the Church of *Scotland*, as by Law established, in the full Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges: and, as We persuade Ourselves, that no Endeavours will be omitted on your Part, that may tend to promote and encourage Virtue, you may depend upon Our Royal Approbation of them in your present Assembly.

The Experience We have had of the Fidelity, Ability, and prudent Conduct, of Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved *Charles Lord Cathcart*, have determined Us again to make Choice of him to represent Our Person in this Assembly; and We cannot doubt but his known Attachment to Us, and Our Government, and approved Zeal for the Church of *Scotland*, will render him very agreeable to you.

As the View of your present Assembling is to promote Piety and Virtue, We assure Ourselves you will suffer nothing to be done, but what may contribute thereto, as far as may depend upon you; and so We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the twenty-second Day of *April*, One thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven, in the thirtieth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HOLDERNESSE.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to
the King's most gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, May 21st, 1757. Sess. 3d.

May it please your Majesty,



HE most gracious Letter with which your Majesty has honoured this National Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, We received with that Respect and Thankfulness which Subjects, happy under the best of Governments, owe to the best of Sovereigns.

The favourable Sentiments which your Majesty is pleased to express of the Loyalty of former Assemblies, and of their Zeal for the Advancement of true Religion and Piety, give us the most sensible Pleasure, and inspire us with new Ardor, to use our utmost Endeavours, to preserve the good Opinion your Majesty has conceived of us: We esteem it our peculiar Happiness, that these our Principles and Dispositions, which as Men, as Christians, and as *Britons*, we ought ever to cultivate, are the surest Means of securing your Royal Favour.

Your Majesty's countenancing our present Meeting with your Royal Approbation and Authority, is a fresh Proof of your pious Concern for the Interests of true Religion, and of your sincere Regard for the Prosperity of this National Church.

We have an entire Reliance upon your Majesty's Assurances, of your constant Resolution to support and maintain the Church of *Scotland*, as by Law established, in the full Enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges. These Assurances are the most satisfying Proofs of your Majesty's constant Regard for the Rights of your Subjects, and lay us under peculiar Obligations to exert ourselves to the utmost, in Defence of your Majesty's sacred Person, and in support of that Constitution and Government under which we enjoy so many inestimable Blessings.

We hope your Majesty will upon all Occasions have Reason to judge, that our Conduct is directed by the Principles of true Piety and affectionate Loyalty; and we beg Leave to assure your Majesty, that in our several Stations we shall make it our Care, to promote the same pious and loyal Principles, wherever our Influence can reach.

The Choice your Majesty has been pleased to make of the Lord *Cathcart*, to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, gives entire Satisfaction to us, and every Member of the Church of *Scotland*. The Proofs your Majesty has had of his Lordship's Abilities, Attention and Faithfulness, in former Ser-

vices and Employments, and the sincere Regard he has always shown for true Religion, and for the Rights and Interests of this Church, render the Choice of him most acceptable to us, and to all true Friends of our happy Establishment in Church and State.

Your Majesty's Renewal of your Royal Bounty, for the reforming those Parts of our Country, which yet remain in a great Measure ignorant and uncivilized, we acknowledge with all Thankfulness, as a fresh Instance of your Majesty's pious Concern for the true Happiness of all your Subjects; and we shall, to the best of our Judgment, employ it in such a Manner, as may most effectually serve the important Purposes of so pious and charitable a Donation.

As the great Intent of our present assembling is to promote true Piety and Virtue, we can assure your Majesty, that, aiming above all Things to approve ourselves to Almighty God, and to justify the Trust and Confidence your Majesty is pleased to repose in us, nothing shall be wanting on our Part, to contribute to an End in all respects so good and so desirable.

That the God of all Grace, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may pour down his choicest Blessings upon your Majesty; that your precious Life may be long preserved, for a Blessing to these Realms; that divine Wisdom may direct your Council; and that, under the Protection of Almighty Providence, your Fleets and Armies may be victorious; that God may abundantly bless their Royal Highnesses, *George Prince of Wales*, the Princess Dowager of *Wales*, the Duke, the Princesses, and all the Branches of your Royal Family; and that, after a long and happy Reign upon Earth, you may be exalted into the heavenly Kingdom; and that a Race of Kings of your Royal Line, Guardians of Religion, Liberty, and their Country, may always sway the Scepter over these Lands; are the fervent Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

*Edinburgh, 21st
May 1757.*

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

WILLIAM LEECHMAN Moderator,

IV.

Act anent the Method of keeping the separate Registers.

Edinburgh, May 25th 1757. Sess. 6.

THE General Assembly having heard the Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. concerning the Manner of keeping the separate Registers, do appoint, that, for the future, the separate Registers shall be divided into as many Parts, as the respective Presbyteries consist of Parishes; and that the Facts respecting the Ministers and Vacancies of every Parish, shall be stated under its own proper Head or Division, marked with the Name of the Parish: And further, as an Abstract is to be prepared of the two Acts relative to the Fund, and of what other Papers are necessary for the Direction of Presbyteries and Universities respecting the said Fund, the General Assembly appoint, that, as soon as this Abstract shall be transmitted, every Presbytery and University shall cause it to be bound up with a Quire of clean Paper, in order that, whatever After-Regulations shall be found necessary with respect to the Fund, these may be copied over into the said Book; by which Means the whole of the Rules concerning the Fund will be always at hand.

V.

Recommendation to Presbyteries to
take Care that none of the Mi-
nisters of this Church attend the
Theatre.

Edinburgh, May 27th 1757. Sess. 8.



THE General Assembly considering how much the Success of the Gospel depends on the regular and inoffensive Behaviour of the Ministers of this Church, do earnestly recommend to the several Presbyteries, to

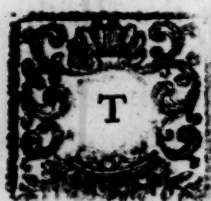
to take such wise and effectual Measures as may promote the Spirit of our holy Religion, and preserve the Purity and Decorum of the ministerial Character ; and that they take Care that none of the Ministers of this Church do, upon any Occasion, attend the Theatre.



VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 28th 1757. Sess. 9.



THE General Assembly considering that there are diverse Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint, the Rev. Mr. William Leechman, Professor of Divinity in the College of *Glasgow*, their Moderator: And from the Presbytery of *Dumferline*, Mr. John Erskine at *Culross*, Mr. George Adie at *Carnock*, Mr. James Reid at *Beath*, Ministers; Baillie Andrew Turnbull Merchant in *Innerkeithing*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dumferline*, Mr. Alexander Wedderburn Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr. David Marshal at *Kirkcaldy*, Mr. Matthew Mitchel at *Auchterderran*, Mr. John Moodie at *Portmoak*, Ministers; Doctor Robert White of *Bennochie* Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Kinghorn*, Mr. William Wallace Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Coupar*, Mr. William Smibert at *Kilmenie*, Mr. Thomas Stark at *Balmerino*, Mr. George Simson at *Falkland*, Mr. Robert Wright at *Newburgh*, Ministers; the Right Hon. the Earl of *Leven*, and Mr. Andrew Barclay of *Pitlochy*, Ruling Elders: Burgh of *Coupar*, Mr. Henry Barclay of *Collerney*: From the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, Mr. Andrew Schaw Professor of Divinity in the New College of *St. Andrews*, Mr. James Walker at *Leuchars*, Mr. John Nairn at *Anstruther Easter*, Mr. James Key at *Kilrennie*, Ministers; Mr. David Young Professor of Philosophy in the united College of *St. Salvador* and *St. Leonard* in the University of *St. Andrews*, and Mr. Robert Anstruther Advocate, Ruling Elders: University of *St. Andrews*, Mr. James Muirison, Principal of the New College in the University of *St. Andrews*: From the Presbytery of *Meigle*, Mr. Alexander Scot at *Kingoldrum*, Mr. Alexander Dun

Dun at *Bendochie*, Mr. James Ogilvie at *Eassie*, Ministers; John Murray of *Lintrose*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Mr. John Ker at *Forfar*, Mr. James Henderson at *Dunichen*, Ministers; Mr. George Dempster Advocate, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Forfar*, Mr. John Swinton Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr. Thomas Donaldson at *Liff*, Mr. Thomas Randal at *Inchture*, Mr. James Jobson at *Abernyte*, Ministers; Bailie John Jobson in *Dundee*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dundee*, Mr. Thomas Boyes of *Mains of Dudhope*: From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothwick*, Mr. Thomas Craig at *Guthrie*, Mr. Alexander Chapline at *Kinnel*, Ministers: The Hon. John Maul of *Innerkeillor*, Esq; one of the Barons of Exchequer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Brechin*, Mr. David Blair at *Brechin*, Mr. George Ogilvie at *Minmuir*, Mr. David Ferguson at *Farnwell*, Ministers; Bailie Lauchlan Morrison Merchant in *Montrose*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Fordoun*, Mr. Alexander Forbes at *Fetteresso*, Mr. Robert Allardice at *Glenbervie*, Mr. James Smith at *Garvock*, Ministers; Robert Scot of *Duninald*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, Dr. Robert Pollock, Principal of the Marishal College of *Aberdeen*, Mr. James Nicholson at *Banchory*, Mr. John Maxwell at *Newmachar*, Mr. Patrick Duff at *Oldmachar*, Ministers; the Right Hon. the Lord Prestongrange and Provost Alexander Robertson of *Glasgow*, Ruling Elders: King's College, Mr. John Lumisden, Professor of Divinity therein: From the Presbytery of *Kincardine O'Neil*, Mr. Francis Downey at *Lumphannan*, Mr. Murdo M'Lennan at *Crathie*, Mr. Thomas Mitchel at *Tarland*, Ministers; Sir Arthur Forbes of *Craigievar*, Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr. Theodore Gordon at *Kinnethmont*, Mr. Alexander Strachan at *Keig*, Mr. William Duff at *Glenbucket*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Ellon*, Mr. William Paterson at *Slains*, Mr. James Gilchrist at *Foverane*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Garioch*, Mr. Alexander Stewart at *Leslie*, Mr. George Ogilvy at *Premnay*, Mr. Patrick Simson at *Kennay*, Ministers; Mr. David Dalrymple Advocate, Procurator for the Church, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Deer*, Mr. John Brown at *Longside*, Mr. William Taylor at *New-Deer*, Mr. James Walker at *Peterhead*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Turreff*, Mr. James Wilson at *Gamrie*, Mr. William Moir at *Fyvie*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, Mr. Walter Morrison at *Deskford*, Mr. James Anderson at *Cullen*, Ministers; the Right Hon. the Lord Edgefield, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr. Alexander Chalmers at *Cairnie*, Mr. Roger Moodie at *Gartley*, Ministers; Thomas

Innes Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr. John Touch at *Aberlour*, Mr. Hugh Grant at *Knockando*; Thomas Grant of *Achoinany*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abernethy*, Mr. William Blair at *Kinguise*, Mr. Patrick Grant at *Cromdale*, Ministers; Lauchlan Grant Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Elgin*, Mr. Alexander Irvine at *Elgin*, Mr. Alexander Watt at *Alves*, Ministers; James Garden Merchant in *Elgin*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forres*, Mr. John Squyre at *Forres*, Mr. Robert Dalrymple at *Dollas*, Ministers; John Dunbar of *Balnageith*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inverness*, Mr. Murdo M'Kenzie at *Inverness*, Mr. James Calder at *Croy*, Ministers; Provost John Frazer Merchant in *Inverness*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chanonry*, Mr. John Wood at *Rosemarkie*, Mr. Hector M'Phail at *Culicudden*, Ministers; Mr. James Robertson, Professor of Oriental Languages in the College of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tain*, Mr. Patrick Grant at *Nigg*, Mr. George Balfour at *Tarbat*, Ministers; Sir John Gordon of *Invergordon*, Bart. Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Tain*, Mr. David Ross younger of *Inverchafley* Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, Mr. Andrew Robertson at *Kiltearn*, Mr. David Chisholm at *Kilmonack*, Ministers; Albert Munro of *Coul*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abertarph*, Mr. John Grant at *Urquhart*, Mr. Duncan M'Pherson at *Laggan*, Ministers; Mr. Francis Grant Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr. John M'Pherson at *Slait*, Mr. William M'Queen at *Snizort*, Ministers; Alexander M'Leod of *Ulinish*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lewis*, Mr. John Clark at *Stornavoy*, Mr. Normand Morrison at *Uig*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Uist*, Mr. Kenneth M'Aulay at *Harris*, Mr. Lauchlan M'Lean at *Bara*, Ministers; William Ross Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, Mr. John Bethune at *Glenshiel*, Mr. Donald M'Leod at *Glenelg*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Dornoch*, Mr. Martin M'Pherson at *Golspie*, Mr. Hugh Ross at *Kildonan*, Ministers; Alexander Gray of *Over-Skibo*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Dornoch*, Mr. William Gordon younger of *Carrol*, Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Tong*, Mr. George Munro at *Farr*, Mr. John M'Kay at *Edrachilles*, Ministers; Mr. George M'Kay of *Skibo*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Caithness*, Mr. James Ferme at *Wick*, Mr. Alexander Nicolson at *Thurso*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr. Matthew Cleghorn at *St. Andrews*, Mr. John Ballantyne at *Burray*, Ministers; James Sutherland of *Winbreak*, Rul-

Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Cairston*, Mr. John Reid at *Orpbir*, Mr. Thomas Hepburn at *Birsay*, Ministers; Mr. George Wallace Advocate: From the Presbytery of *North Isles*, Mr. James Weir at *Rousay*, Mr. Thomas Lyle at *Lady Parish*, Ministers; Mr. Andrew Ross, Chamberlain of the Earldom of *Orkney*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Zetland*, Mr. Thomas Miller at *Lerwick*, Mr. John Mill at *Dunrofsness*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Mr. John Glen at *Edinburgh*, Mr. James Mackie at *Westkirk*, Dr. Patrick Guming at *Edinburgh*, Mr. Alexander Bryce at *Kirknewton*, Mr. James Watson at *Cannongate*, Mr. Robert Fisher at *Collingtoun*, Ministers; Mr. Charles Hope-weir of *Craigiehall*, Mr. James Balfour of *Pitrig*, and James Rothead, present Dean of Guild of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elders: City of *Edinburgh*, Robert Montgomery, Esq; present Lord Provost thereof, Mr. Thomas Cleland Sadler, and present Conveener of the Trades therein: University of *Edinburgh*, Mr. Robert Hamilton, Professor of Divinity therein: Church of *Campvere*, Mr. James Yair, Minister of the *Scots Church of Campvere*, and Archibald M'Aulay, Esq; late Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr. James Naesmith at *Dalmenie*, Mr. Robert Boyd at *Muiravenside*, Mr. Charles Wilkie at *Ecclesmachine*, Mr. Archibald M'Aulay at *Queensferry*, Ministers; Mr. Robert Ramsay of *Blackcraig*, and Charles Addison Merchant in *Borrowstounness*, Ruling Elders: Burgh of *Queensferry*, Bailie Archibald Stewart Merchant therein: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr. John Buchannan at *Covingtoun*, Mr. John Thomson junior at *Welftoun*, Ministers; Mr. James Moor of *Warnbill*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr. Stephen Oliver at *Innerleithan*, Mr. David Dickson at *Newlands*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr. David Plenderleith at *Dalkeith*, Mr. Archibald Walker at *Temple*, Mr. David Gilchrist at *Newton*, Ministers; the Right Hon. Robert Dundas of *Arniston*, Esq; his Majesty's Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr. Patrick Wilkie at *Haddington*, Mr. James Witherspoon at *Yester*, Mr. William Carlyle at *Prestonpans*, Ministers; Mr. William Law of *Elvingstoun* Advocate, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Haddington*, the Right Hon. the Lord Coalstoun: Burgh of *North-berwick*, John Buchan of *Lethem*, Esq; From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr. Alexander Pyot at *Dunbar*, Mr. Abraham Hume at *Whittingham*, Ministers: Burgh of *Dunbar*, Mr. James Hamilton Surgeon therein: From the Presbytery of *Dunse*, Mr. James Laurie at *Langtoun*, Mr. Robert Monteith at *Longformacus*, Ministers; Mr. Alexander Hume of *Eccles*, one of the principal Clerks of Session, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, Mr. Alexander

der Trotter at *Edrom*, Mr. William Wilton at *Coldstream*, Mr. Walter Anderson at *Chirnside*, Ministers; Sir John Stewart of *Allanbank*, Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kelfo*, Mr. William Walker at *Mackerston*, Mr. Joseph Leek at *Yetholm*, Ministers; Doctor John Gibson Physician in *Kelfo*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr. James Simson at *Wilton*, Mr. George Dickson at *Bedrule*, Mr. Robert Muirhead at *South-dean*, Ministers; Bailie Thomas Turnbull at *Minto*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Jedburgh*, James Oliver Burgess therein: From the Presbytery of *Earlstoun*, Mr. Alexander Duncan at *Smalholm*, Mr. Abraham Ker at *Nenthorn*, Ministers; James Ker of *Moriston*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Lauder*, the Right Hon. the Earl of *Lauderdale*: From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr. Andrew Walker at *Ettrick*, Mr. William Trotter at *Selkirk*, Ministers; Mr. Andrew Pringle Advocate, his Majesty's Solicitor, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Selkirk*, Gideon Shaw of *Lauriston*: From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr. Walter Cook at *Cummertrees*, Mr. James Currie at *Kirkpatrick-fleming*, Ministers; Alexander Orr Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Annan*, John Johnston of *Gutterbraes*, late Provost thereof: Presbytery of *Langholm*, Mr. James M'Garroch at *Eskdalemuir*, Mr. Robert Petrie at *Canoby*, Ministers; Mr. William Johnston Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr. John Nimmo at *Johnston*, Mr. William Scot at *Kirkpatrick*, Mr. James Lindsay at *Lochmaben*, Ministers; Mr. Robert Dalrymple of *Priestside* Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Lochmaben*, Mr. William Kilpatrick of *Eleeßland*: From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr. John Collow at *Penpont*, Mr. Thomas Wilson at *Tynron*, Ministers; Gilbert Grierson of *Marwhorn*, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Sanquhar*, the Right Hon. the Lord *Shewalton*: From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr. Robert Wight at *Dumfries*, Mr. Andrew Beveridge at *Carlawerock*, Mr. George Heron at *Terregles*, Ministers; Ebenezer Hepburn Merchant in *Dumfries*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. David Forbes at *Borgue*, Mr. Robert Carson at *Anwoth*, Mr. William Boyd at *Carsphairn*, Ministers; Robert Naesmith Merchant in *Kirkcudbright*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Wigtoun*, Mr. Patrick Anderson at *Penningham*, Mr. James Maitland at *Sorbie*, Ministers; Doctor Alexander Martin of *Little Airies* Physician, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Whitehorn*, John M'Gowan Writer in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Stranrawer*, Mr. Robert Finlay at *Inch*, Mr. James M'Culloch at *Kirkcolm*, Ministers; the Right Hon. the Lord *Bankton*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Air*, Mr. Thomas Thomson at *Daily*, Mr. David Shaw at *Coyltoun*, Mr. Andrew Mitchel at *Muirkirk*, Mr. John Cuningham at *Dal-*

Dalmellington, Mr. Thomas Walker at *Dundonald*, Ministers; the Right Hon. the Lord Auchinleck, and Bailie Muir, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr. James Hacket at *Fenwick*, Mr. John Witherpoon at *Beith*, Mr. Andrew Ross at *Loudon*, Ministers; Mr. Robert Brown Preacher of the Gospel at *Irvine*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Paisley*, Mr. Henry Miller at *Neilston*, Mr. John Fleming at *Kilmacolm*, Mr. James Hamilton at *Abbey Parish*, Mr. John Cooper at *Lockwinnoch*, Ministers; Mr. Archibald Campbell of *Elderslie*, and Mr. William Somerville Provost of *Renfrew*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr. John Scot at *Stonhouse*, Mr. Thomas Cleland at *Cambusnethen*, Mr. Robert Bell at *Avendale*, Ministers; Mr. James Cook in *Green*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, Mr. Charles Hunter at *Pittinain*, Mr. James Gray at *Lanerk*, Mr. John Bradefute at *Dunsyre*, Ministers; George Irvine of *Newton*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, Mr. John Hamilton at *Glasgow*, Mr. Robert Finlay there, Mr. William Bell at *Campsie*, Ministers; Thomas Napier Watchmaker, and late Bailie in *Glasgow*, Ruling Elder: City of *Glasgow*, Archibald Ingram Merchant, and present Dean of Guild thereof: From the Presbytery of *Dumbarton*, Mr. George Sinclair at *Balfron*, Mr. Archibald Smith at *Fintry*, Mr. James Graeme at *Bonhill*, Ministers; Sir James Colquhoun of *Luss*, Bart. Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunoon*, Mr. James Forbes at *Kilmoddan*, Mr. Dougal Allan at *Innerchaolan*, Ministers; Mr. William Sands Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr. Robert Thomson at *Killeen*, Mr. Archibald M'Niel at *Kilcalmonel*, Ministers; Mr. John M'Niel Advocate; Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Campbeltown*, Mr. Alexander M'Millan of *Dunmore* Writer to the Signet: From the Presbytery of *Inverary*, Mr. Alexander Campbell at *Inverary*, Mr. Archibald Lambie at *Kilmartin*, Ministers; Colin Campbell of *Kilbride*, Esq; one of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr. James Stewart at *Kilbranden*, Mr. John M'Aulay at *Liffmore* and *Appine*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Mull*, Mr. Alexander M'Tavish at *Morvern*, Mr. Charles Campbell at *Tiree*, Ministers: Hector M'Clean of *Torloisk*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr. Alexander Stewart at *Blair Athole*, Mr. John Douglas at *Kenmuir*, Mr. James Campbell at *Dull*, Mr. Thomas Webster at *Clunie*, Ministers; John Campbell of *Achallader*, Esq; and Mr. John Campbell Cashier to the Royal Bank, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Mr. James Oswald at *Metboen*, Mr. Patrick Bennerman at *Kinnoul*, Mr. John Bonnar at *Perth*, Mr. George Frazer at *Redgorton*, Ministers; the

Right Hon. the Lord President and Mr. John Belches of *Invermay* Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr. James Turnbull at *Denny*, Mr. John Gibson at *St. Ninians*, Ministers; the Right Hon. the Lord Justice Clerk, Ruling Elder: Burgh of *Stirling*, John Gillespie Merchant and late Provost thereof: From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr. Robert Menzies at *Comrie*, Mr. Donald Munro at *Monzie*, Mr. David M'Gibbon at *Glendevon*, Ministers; Mr. Patrick Campbell of *Monzie*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, Mr. John Smith at *Kincardine*, Mr. James Richardson at *Aberfoyle*, Ministers; Mr. George Abercrombie Advocate, Ruling Elder; with his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, his Grace the Duke of *Atchale*, the most honourable the Marquis of *Tweeddale*, the most honourable the Marquis of *Lothian*, Sir Gilbert Elliot of *Minto*, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and Mr. Gilbert Elliot of *Lochgellie* Advocate, Ruling Elders: To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effects after mentioned, with Power to the said Commissioners or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and thereafter the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force 'till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen,

teen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert: And that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likewise to take care, that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing the same. And the said Commission are appointed and impowered, to keep a Correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands* for suppressing Popery and Superstition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in these Parts, and give Assistance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; declaring, that in and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly, held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meetings of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give

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Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take care that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same: And the Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions, relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are, or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meetings, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission to make due Application to the King and Parliament for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur, during the Subsistence of this Commission. And the General Assembly do enjoin their Commission, that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.



VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1757, Sess. ult.



THE General Assembly do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint, the Reverend Mr. *William Leechman*, Professor of Divinity in the College of *Glasgow*, their Moderator; Mr. *Thomas Tullideph*, Principal of the united Colleges of *St. Salvator* and *St. Leonard* in the University of *St. Andrews*; Mr.

Mr. *James Muirison* Principal of the New College there ; Mr. *Neil Campbell* Principal of the College of *Glasgow* ; Mr. *John Gowdie* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh* ; Mr. *John Lumsden* Professor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen* ; Mr. *Robert Pollock* Principal of the Marshall College there ; Mr. *Andrew Shaw* Professor of Divinity in the New-College of *St. Andrews* ; Mr. *Robert Hamilton* Professor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh* ; Mr. *James Witherpoon*, one of his Majesty's Chaplains ; all the Ministers of the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* ; Mr. *John Douglas* at *Kenmuir* ; Mr. *James Oswald* at *Metbven* ; Mr. *Alexander Campbell* at *Inverary* ; Mr. *James Forbes* at *Glendarual* ; Mr. *John Kerr* at *Forfar* ; Mr. *Andrew Mitchell* at *Muirkirk* ; Mr. *Archibald Lambie* at *Kilmartin* ; Mr. *John MacPherson* at *Slait* ; Mr. *John Bonar* at *Perth* ; Mr. *John MacAulay* at *Lismore* ; Mr. *Donald Munro* at *Monzie* ; Mr. *Alexander Stewart* at *Lesly* ; Mr. *Robert Thomson* at *Killeen* ; Mr. *John Squire* at *Forres* ; Mr. *Hugh Ross* at *Kildonan* ; Mr. *Kenneth MacAulay* at *Harris* ; Mr. *Alexander Stewart* at *Blair* ; Mr. *James Campbell* at *Dull* ; Mr. *Dugald Allan* at *Innerchaolan* ; Mr. *Alexander MacTavish* at *Morvern* ; Mr. *Hector MacPhail* at *Cullicudden* ; Mr. *Henry Millar* at *Neilston* ; Mr. *George Shepherd* at *Newbottle* ; Mr. *John Johnston* at *Biggar* ; Mr. *Alexander Irvine* at *Elgin* ; Mr. *James Richardson* at *Aberfoyle*, Ministers. His Grace *James Duke of Athole* ; his Grace *Archibald Duke of Argyle* ; the most Honourable the Marquis of *Tweeddale* ; the most Honourable the Marquis of *Lothian* ; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Marchmont* ; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Dumfries* ; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Breadalbine* ; the Right Honourable the Lord *Somerville* ; the Right Honourable *Robert Craigie* of *Glendoick*, Lord President of the Court of Session ; the Right Honourable *Robert Dundas* of *Arnistoun*, Esq ; his Majesty's Advocate ; *Charles Erskine* of *Tinwald*, Esq ; Lord Justice Clerk ; *Alexander Fraser* of *Strichen*, Esq ; *Patrick Boyle* of *Shewalton*, Esq ; *Alexander Boswal* of *Auchinleck*, Esq ; *Robert Pringle* of *Edgfield*, Esq ; *William Grant* of *Prestongrange*, Esq ; *Andrew MacDowal* of *Banktoun*, Esq ; *George Brown* of *Coalfstoun*, Esq ; seven of the Senators of the College of Justice. Mr. *Gilbert Elliot* of *Melgund*, Advocate ; Mr. *Thomas Boyes* Writer in *Edinburgh* ; *John Maul* of *Innerkeillor*, Esq ; one of the Barons of Exchequer ; Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church ; *Lauchlan Grant* of *Gartenbeg* ; Mr. *James Robertson* Professor of the Oriental Languages in the University of *Edinburgh* ; *Albert Munro* of *Coull* ; Sir *John Stewart* of *Allan Bank* ; Mr. *Andrew Pringle* Advocate, his Majesty's Solicitor ; Mr. *Robert Dalrymple* of *Priestside* ; Mr. *James Smollet* of *Bonhill* Advocate ; Mr. *Alexander MacMillan* of *Dun-*
E more,

more, Writer to the Signet ; Mr. *Hector MacLean* of *Torloisk* ; Mr. *Patrick Campbell* of *Monzie* ; Mr. *John MacNeil* Advocate ; Sir *James Colquhoun* of *Luss* ; Mr. *Matthew Stewart* Professor of Mathematics in the College of *Edinburgh* ; Mr. *William Sands* Bookseller in *Edinburgh* ; Mr. *Archibald Campbell* of *Eldersly*, Writer to the Signet ; *William Ross* Writer in *Edinburgh* ; *Gideon Schaw* of *Lauriston* ; Mr. *George Wallace* Advocate, and Mr. *John Paton* Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and Profaneness, and for Managing the Royal Bounty given for these Ends, according to, and in Terms of his Majesty's Grant to this Assembly. In Prosecution of which Purposes the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such Places as they shall find, upon due Information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's Design expressed in his Warrant: And they shall take Care, that the Persons they employ be certified, and found upon due Trial, to be properly qualified for these respective Offices, of good Abilities for the same, of a pious Life and Conversation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish Controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed, to be subject to, and under the Inspection of the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are sent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duly observed by them: And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the People from House to House, and to visit the Sick ; and in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws ; and the Committee are impowered to give them such Instructions as to their Work and Behaviour as they shall judge meet ; which Instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard in their Proceedings to the Regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th Day of *September* 1730, approved by subsequent Assemblies ; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do ; particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact Regard thereto in all the Letters they

they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them, and to direct all their Letters concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee, which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof; and the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Time mentioned in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply for the Purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Appointments laid upon them, and they are to keep a Register of their Proceedings; and likewise distinct Books of Accompts how the foresaid Money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the Persons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a Quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers: But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing Year is to be approved and determined, not less than 14 shall be the Quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers, and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day should fall to be *Saturday*, and then the Meeting shall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour; with Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places as they shall find most needful and convenient; and they are to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors; and take their Advice and Assistance; and also to correspond with Synods and Presbyteries concerned: They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see Cause, to apply to the Government or any Magistrate for Assistance and Support in carrying on the Design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do, by these Presents, nominate and appoint Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said Committee, and according to their Rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine

mine the Accompts of the Distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Person once employed and insert in the Scheme shall be struck out thereof for that Year, but by the *Quorum* of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any Complaint shall be made against any of them on the Scheme, it shall not be determined at the first ordinary Meeting that the same is offered, but shall ly on the Table till another Meeting; and in the mean time the Person complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such Complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just Account of the Matter, against their next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled, in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their Answers to these Letters, at farthest with ther Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first Meeting after the General Assembly, in case they do not compleat the next Year's Scheme themselves, shall name a Sub-committee of their Number for compleating the same, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a subsequent Meeting.



VIII.

*Act appointing the Diet of the next
General Assembly.*

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1757, Seff. ult.



HE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place, on the fourth Thursday of May next, being the 25th Day of that Month, in the Year 1758.

*Collected and extracted from the Records
of the General Assembly, by*

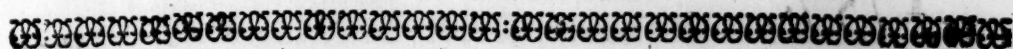
GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*
Overtures



Overtures.

Edinburgh, May 24th, 1757.

T HE General Assembly finding that few Presbyteries have sent up Answers to the two Overtures transmitted by the last General Assembly, viz. Overture *anent Ministers making Agreements with their Heretors concerning the Extent of their Stipends*, and that *anent the more speedily supplying of Vacancies*, do again transmit the said two Overtures to such Presbyteries as have neglected to send up their Opinions, that they may send up the same to the next General Assembly.



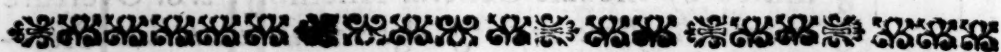
Act and Overture against simoniacal Practices.

Edinburgh, May 28th, 1757.



AN Explanation or Amendment being proposed of a Part of the Act 1. June 1753, against simoniacal Practices, the General Assembly agreed to transmit the foresaid Act, and Explication thereof, as an Overture, to the Consideration of the several Presbyteries of this Church, that they may send up their Opinions thereupon to the next General Assembly; and appoint, that in the mean Time the same have the Force of an Act, and that Presbyteries take it into their Consideration as soon as the Acts of Assembly shall come into their Hands; of which Explication the Tenor follows, viz. “Whereas in the Act of Assembly of the 1st June 1753, against simoniacal Practices, there is the following Branch or Clause, *and do not immediately, when they come to the Knowledge of it, intimate the same to the Presbytery of the Bounds*, and whereas it is found necessary to explain and amend the said Clause, it is therefore hereby enacted, that if any such simoniacal Practices as are mentioned and described in the said Act, shall be carried on by any Person or Persons whatsoever, in order to the promoting or procuring any Benefice or Office in this Church, to any Minister or Probationer,

“oner, though without his Consent or Approbation; and if
 “such Minister or Probationer shall at any time be told or in-
 “formed, that such Practices have been, or are carried on, or
 “proposed to be carried on for the Purpose aforesaid, and shall
 “not make Discovery or Intimation thereof to the Presbytery
 “of the Bounds, at their first Meeting after he shall receive
 “such Information, then, and in that Case he shall, if a Mi-
 “nister, be deposed, and if a Probationer, be deprived of his
 “Licence.”



A

TABLE of the printed Acts of the
 General Assembly held in the Year
 1757.

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I. <i>THE King's Commission to Charles Lord Cathcart produced, and ordered to be recorded.</i>	3
II. <i>The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.</i>	4
III. <i>The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.</i>	5
IV. <i>Act anent the Method of keeping separate Registers.</i>	7
V. <i>Recommendation to Presbyteries to take Care that none of the Ministers of this Church attend the Theatre.</i>	Ibid.
VI. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.</i>	8
VII. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.</i>	16
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<i>Act and Overture anent simoniacal Practices.</i>	Ibid.

Index *or* Abridgment

O F T H E

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1757, which are not printed at full length.

A F T E R Sermon by the Reverend Doctor *Patrick Cuming*, one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, and Professor of Church History in the University of *Edinburgh*, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene in the Assembly House, and the Reverend Mr. *William Leechman*, Professor of Divinity in the University of *Glasgow* being chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. *May 19th, Sess. 1.*

The King's Commission to *Charles Lord Cathcart*, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person in this Assembly, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The Commissioner's Speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's Speech in Return thereto. *Ibid.*

The Royal Warrant for 1000 *l.* granted this Year by his Majesty, for Encouragement of itinerant Preachers and Catechists, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and Islands, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for revising the Commission to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, receiving in Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded, and of Students in Divinity at the several Universities, and report. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures named. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals named. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer. *May 20th, Sess. 2.*

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The

I N D E X, 1757.

The Act 7th of the Assembly 1718, for the better Dispatch of the Business of Assembly, read, and the Observation thereof enjoined. *Ibid.*

The Draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in and approven, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's Request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty. *May 21st, Sess. 3.*

The Report of the Committee for revising Commissions brought in, bearing, *1mo*, That the Commission from the City of *Glasgow*, being dated the 12th of *April*, is three Days within the Time limited by Act of Assembly.---*2do*, That the Commissions from the Presbyteries of *Earlston*, *Linlithgow*, and *Dunbar*, want the Clause, bearing, that the Elders are qualified according to the Act of Assembly 1722.---*3tio*, That the Commissions from the Presbyteries of *Stranrawer*, *Mull*, and *Dunkeld*, bear in general, that the Commissioners are every other way qualified according to the Acts of Assembly, but do not bear, that the Elders are qualified according to the Act 1722.—The foresaid Remarks read, the Commissions above mentioned received, and Dissents entered therefrom. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, audite the Procurator and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of the public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*. *Ibid.*

Committees named for revising the Synod Books of *Fife*, *Aberdeen*, *Merse* and *Tiviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, and *Argyle*. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Moray*, *Ross*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Galloway*, *Glenelg*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland* absent, and resolved that the Reasons thereof be enquired into. *Ibid.*

The Presbytery of *Stranrawer*, in respect the Crown's Right to the Patronage of *Stonykirk* is declared by the Court of Session, appointed to proceed to the Moderation of a Call to Mr. *John Hunter* his Majesty's Presentee alone, to be Minister of *Stonykirk*, and to take the other Steps necessary towards his Trial and Admission as Minister of that Parish, according to the Rules of this Church. *Ibid.*

The Committee for Overtures appointed to receive in from the several Members, any Instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the Matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Com-

I N D E X, 1757.

A Committee named to revise the Synod Books of *Sutherland* and *Caitness*. May 23d, Sess. 4.

A Committee named to prepare an Overture against simoniacal Practices. *Ibid.*

A Petition of the Elders and others of the Lowland Congregation of *Campbeltoun*, and Parish of *Southend*, complaining of two Acts past by the Synod of *Argyle*, taking away the Use of Sermons on the *Saturday* before and *Monday* after dispensing of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and resolving to proceed against those who, after Admonition, continue refractory, or follow divisive Courses, according to the Rules of the Church, brought in and read. — The Conduct of the said Synod, so far as they discontinue the Sermons on *Saturday* and *Monday*, in order to have the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper more frequently and decently administered within their Bounds, unanimously approved of; but that Part of their Act enforcing the same by a Sanction not affirmed. — And a Recommendation to all concerned to study Peace and Harmony, and to the People in the Bounds of the said Synod to give regular Attendance on Ordinances dispensed by their Ministers. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to enquire into what Money has been transmitted to *William Ross* Writer in *Edinburgh*, pursuant to Act of last Assembly, for a voluntary Collection for educating Students having the *Irish* Language, and to prepare an Overture thereupon. May 24th, Sess. 5.

The Clerks appointed to class the Returns to the several Overtures transmitted to Presbyteries preceeding the last Assembly, and to report the same to the next General Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Overture anent Ministers making Agreements with their Heretors concerning the Extent of their Stipends, and that anent the more speedily supplying of Vacancies, transmitted to such Presbyteries as have not sent up their Opinions thereon. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, from a Sentence pass'd by the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweddale*, in a Process against Mr. *Alexander Carlyle* Minister at *Inveresk*, brought in; the Members of the Synod who had dissented from the said Sentence found to have no Title to be heard at the Bar in Support of their Dissent. The foresaid Sentence, finding,
 “ That the Grounds of proceeding in this Affair, in the Way
 “ of a Libel, are not sufficiently clear and uncontrovertible,
 “ and that it had been better and more expedient for the
 “ Presbytery to have endeavoured to bring the same to an
 “ Issue, either in the Way of privy Censure, or with brotherly
 “ Conference, with proper Admonition following thereupon;
 “ and further declaring their high Displeasure with
 “ Mr. *Carlyle* for the Step he has taken in going to the
 “ Theatre,

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“ Theatre, and strictly enjoining him to abstain therefrom
“ in Time coming,” read and affirmed. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of Mr. *Æneas Sage* Minister at *Lochcarron*, from a Judgment of the Synod of *Glenelg*, delaying to give Judgment in a Complaint given in against him to the Presbytery of *Gairloch* by Mr. *Æneas M^cAulay* Minister at *Applecross*, and referred by the Presbytery to the Synod, remitted back to the said Synod; and the Commission at their Meeting in *November* impowered to take in, cognosce, and finally determine in any Reference or Appeal that shall be made to them relative thereto. *May 25th, Sess. 6.*

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. brought in, and ordered to ly on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

Act anent the Method of keeping the separate Registers. *Ibid.*

A Sentence of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, appointing the Presbytery of *Alfoord* to proceed to the Settlement of Mr. *James M^cWilliam*, as Minister of the united Parishes of *Forbes* and *Kearn*, according to the Rules of this Church, affirmed. *Ibid.*

The Commission impowered, at their first Meeting after the rising of the Assembly, to cognosce, and finally determine, in an Appeal of Mr. *Robert Grier* Minister at *Durisdair*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Dumfries*, and in a Reference of that Cause by the Synod to this Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book brought in, and the approving of the Commission's Proceedings delayed, till the Complaint against their Sentence, in a Cause relating to the Settlement of the Parish of *Jedburgh*, be discussed. *May 26th, Sess. 7.*

The Members from the several Synods appointed to meet among themselves, in order to bring in a List of the Nominators of the Commission, according to the 6th Act of Assembly 1705. *Ibid.*

A Report from the Committee for revising Commissions, bearing, that the Commission from the Presbytery of *Langholm* is 32, and the Commission from the Burgh of *Dunbar* 20 Days within the Time prescribed by the General Assembly; that the Commission from the Burgh of *Stirling* is three Days without the Time limited by Act of Assembly, brought in and read, and the foresaid Commissions received. *Ibid.*

A Minister named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, on the Forenoon Sabbath next, in Place of one formerly named for that Diet, but who is not come to Town. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to consider the Laws respecting the Election and Qualification of Members of Assembly, and from these

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- these to frame one Act, and therein fix the Form of Commissions to Members of Assembly, and Attestations of Commissions, with such Preciseness, and annex such Penalties to every Departure from these Forms, as may remove Ambiguity, and prevent as much as possible Disputes for the future, upon Commissions, and Attestations of Commissions, and report the same to the Commission in *November* next, that they may further prepare it for the next General Assembly. *Ibid.*
- A Committee named to consider an Overture transmitted from the Committee for Overtures, for putting a Stop to simoniacal Practices. *Ibid.*
- A Complaint for his Majesty's Advocate, and the Heretors, and others, Concurrers with the Royal Presentation granted in Favours of Mr. *John Douglas* Minister at *Kenmuir*, to be Minister of the Town and Parish of *Jedburgh*, against the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, for not obeying a Sentence of the Commission in *November* last, sustaining the Presentation and Call to Mr. *Douglas*, and appointing the said Presbytery to proceed in a Process for his Transportation, brought in, with a Complaint by others of the said Town and Parish, complaining of the Commission's foresaid Sentence.---The Complaint against the Commission dismissed, and the Presbytery of *Jedburgh* appointed to proceed with all convenient Speed, according to the Rules of this Church, in a Process towards the Transportation of the said Mr. *John Douglas* from the Parish of *Kenmuir*, and his Admission as Minister of the Town and Parish of *Jedburgh*.---The Complaint against the Presbytery dismissed, none insisting therein, and the Commission impowered to take in, cognosce, and finally determine in any Complaint, Reference or Appeal that shall regularly be brought before them, concerning the Settlement of the said Town and Parish of *Jedburgh*. *Ibid.*
- The Commission Book attested. *Ibid.*
- A List of Members from the several Synods, brought in and appointed as a Committee to name the Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and prepare Instructions to them. *May 27th, Sess. 8.*
- The Accompts of the Procurator, Agent, and Printer for the Church, with the Report of the Committee on the public Accompts thereon, brought in, and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*
- A Presentation that had been given in to the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldy*, to one to be Minister of the Parish of *Abbotshall*, withdrawn; and an Appeal taken by the Patron, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Fife*, referring the Cause to this Assembly, with the Synod's Reference of the said Cause, and another Appeal relative thereto, dismissed; but prejudice

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judice to the lawful Patron to present another Person within six Months from this Date. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to Presbyteries to take Care that none of the Ministers of this Church attend the Theatre. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of Mr. *William Brown*, late Minister of the *English* Church at *Utrecht*, now presented to be Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the new College of *St. Andrews*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Fife*, dismissing an Appeal taken by him from the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, for serving him with a Libel, heard; with a Representation of the Subject Matter of that Libel by the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*, and their Reference of the Cause to this Assembly. The foresaid Sentence of the Synod reversed, and the said Mr. *Brown* assailed from the said Process. *Ibid.*

The Reasons of Dissent entered from the Judgment of the Assembly on *Saturday* last, receiving the Commissions mentioned in that Day's Minutes, given in and read, and ordered to be kept *in retentis*. *May 28th, Sess. 9.*

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing Instructions to them, brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

The Royal Warrant for 1000 *l.* for Encouragement of itinerant Preachers, ordered to be given to the Procurator, that he may receive Payment thereof. *Ibid.*

Act approving of Mr. *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, his Intromissions with his Majesty's Allowance for defraying the public Charges of the Church for *Lady-day, Midsummer, Michaelmas, and Christmas 1756*, and appointing that the Balance of 71 *l.* 5 *s.* 1 $\frac{6}{12}$ *d.* *Sterl.* in his Hands, be charged in his next Accompt. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Accompt of *James Edmonstoun*, Agent for the Church, and Sub-clerk to the General Assembly, and appointing that the Balance of 41 *l.* 18 *s.* 6 *d.* *Sterling*, in his Hands, be charged in his next Accompt. *Ibid.*

Order for Payment of an Accompt due to the Printer for the Church, amounting to 40 *l.* 19 *s.* 2 *d.* *Sterling*. *Ibid.*

A Petition for Mr. *George Ellis*, Minister at *Caridden*, craving some Allowance out of the public Funds of the Church, for relieving him of the Expence of a Process before the Court of Session, against one of his Heretors, who insisted that he could not be made liable in more than his Proportion of 1000 *l. Scots* for repairing the Manse and Office-houses of *Caridden*, though the other Heretors and Presbytery had stented a larger Sum for that Purpose, read, and the Sum of 40 *l. Sterl.* ordered for the Petitioner, but not to be paid until all the Debts presently due by the Church are satisfied and paid. *Ibid.*

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Act and Overture against simoniacal Practices. *Ibid.*

A Petition for Mr. *James Richardson*, Minister at *Aberfoyle*, craving some Allowance for the Expence and Trouble he is put to in officiating at the Barracks of *Glendow*, remitted to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee named to enquire into the Amount of the Sum collected for educating of *Irish* Students brought in.---The Act and Recommendation of the last Assembly, appointing the said Collection, ordered to be transmitted to the several Parishes deficient, that they may still make the said Collection.---The Synods to which the Parishes in the *Highlands* and Islands do belong, authorised to lay out the Collections that have been made, or that shall be made in those Parishes, upon the Education of Students living in their respective Bounds.--These Synods appointed to report to the next General Assembly the Amount of the Collections made in their Bounds, with a List of Students educated by them on this Fund, what Allowance they give each Student, and what Progress these Students are making.---The Sum of 71 *l.* 18 *s.* 6 *d.* *Sterl.* of 111 *l.* 18 *s.* *Sterl.* collected in the Lowland Parishes of this Church, and transmitted to the Collector, appointed to be immediately paid to the Synod of *Glenelg*, to be employed by them towards the Education of Students in Divinity without any Loss of Time; the Balance remaining in the Collector's Hands, being 40 *l.* *Sterl.* ordered to be laid out at Interest, until the deficient Parishes transmit their Collections; and an Account of the whole Collections ordered to be laid before the next General Assembly, that they may divide the same among the Students belonging to the several *Highland* Synods, especially that of *Argyle*, which, next to the Synod of *Glenelg*, labours most under the Grievances, for the removing of which this Collection was intended. *Ibid.*

A Representation by the Presbytery of *Alfoord*, and Synod of *Aberdeen*, craving a Share of the public Money for defraying the Expence of a Process commenced before the Court of Session, for a legal Salary to the Schoolmaster in the Parish of *Carbrach*, read, and the Synod of *Aberdeen* enjoined to take all legal Steps for having parochial Schools erected in all the Parishes in their Bounds. *Ibid.*

A Petition for Mr. *Henry Gordon* Minister at *Ardersier*, setting furth the Smallness of his Stipend, the great Expence and Trouble he is exposed to by the building of *Fort George* within his Parish; and craving some Addition to his Living, out of the Royal Bounty, read, and remitted to the Managers of the said Bounty. *Ibid.*

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An Appeal by the Elders and Communicants in the Bounds of the Presbytery of *Dornoch*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, pronounced on the 19th of *August* last, adhering to their former Acts, by which they discharge Fellowship-meetings to be held upon the *Fridays* immediately preceeding the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, heard, with the Reasons thereof, and the Synod's Answers thereto; further Procedure fisted in this Affair at this Time, as not being fully laid before the Assembly, and the Synod appointed to lay an Account of the whole Matter before the next General Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to revise the Synod Book of *Galloway*. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Register of the Committee named by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty, brought in and read. The Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year appointed to make up the Scheme of Missionaries and Catechists to be employed for the ensuing Year, at their first Meeting, if they can overtake it, and the Remarks made by the said Visitors remitted to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, and the said Book ordered to be attested. *May 30th, Sess. ult.*

The Draught of a Commission and Instructions to the Committee for managing the Royal Bounty this Year brought in and approved. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to consider a Reference from the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, concerning one *Patrick Hay*, who had married *Jean Alexander* Niece to his former Wife, and to report their Opinion thereon to the Commission in *November* next. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a State of the Fund under their Management, and an Account of their Proceedings since last General Assembly, reproduced, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to those deficient in making the Collection for carrying on the Building of *Kelfo* Bridge, still to make the said Collection, and transmit the Money collected to Mr. *Adam Fairholm*, and the Clerk appointed to transmit Copies of the Act, recommending the said Collection to such Ministers as he shall be informed have not received it. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to determine the following Particulars referred to the last Commission, and not determined by them, *viz.* An Overture anent the Execution of Sentences of the Supreme Courts.---An Overture anent planting vacant Parishes.---To draw Rules stating the Method of Procedure

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cedure in Causes before the Assembly.---To consider the Power of Kirk Sessions in the Management of the Poors Money.---To consider a Reference from the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, anent the Session of *Cambuslang*.---Appeals of *Michael Bell*, *David Johnston*, *John M'Taggart*, and his Spouse, *John Ferrier*, *Quintin Dick*, and *David M'Murtrie*. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, and *Argyle*, attested. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to call the Visitors of the Synod Books of *Fife* and *Aberdeen* to account for their Absence at this Diet, and upon their Reports, if they see Cause, to order the said Books to be attested. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Moray*, *Ross*, *Glenelg*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, and Presbytery Book of *Zetland* absent, and ordered to be brought up to be revised by the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to consider certain Queries contained in the Instruction from the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, for Advice concerning the Form of Procedure on a *Fama Clamosa*. *Ibid.*

Protestation admitted at the Instance of the Patron and Heretors of the Parish of *Bathgate*, against other Heretors of the said Parish, for not insisting in an Appeal taken by them from a Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*. *Ibid.*

List of Probationers in the Bounds of twenty eight Presbyteries, amounting to eighty two, produced, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this Sederunt read, those of former Sederunts having been read at the Diets subsequent to each Sederunt. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of this Assembly's Proceedings at this and all the other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of this Assembly as are to be standing Rules, or are of public Use, in order to their being printed. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly, and to his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commissioner's Speech in Return thereto; and then the Assembly concluded. *Ibid.*

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